(b) to (d) In addition to optimisation of production from the existing and on-going projects new schemes/projects have been taken up by Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (ECL), Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL) and Central Coalfields Ltd. (CCL) for proper exploitation of coal reserves in the State of Bihar.

The Coal Companies spend sizable amount from their revenue for the welfare of the employees in the areas of education, water supply, hospital facilities and build infrastructure, such as roads in the colliery areas. Since most of the employees are usually from the local areas, it leads to better living standard of the local people and boosts up the economic activities and development of the area through backward and forward linkages.

[English]

Computer Aided Development Centres

5415. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) How many Computer Aided Development Centres (CAD) under his Ministry and its subordinate office are functioning;

(b) how many out of them are functioning in Karnataka;

(c) whether there is any proposal to open more CAD centres in the State during 1997-98; and

(d) if so, the places where these centres are proposed to be opened.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Textiles have sanctioned Computer Aided Design Centres at the following places:-

S. No.	Place	Year of Sanction	Implementing Agency
1	2	3	4
1.	Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu)	1993-94	SITRA
2.	Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh) (Transferred to Karur Tamil Nadu)	1993-94	SITRA
3.	Surat (Gujarat)	1993-94	BTRA
4.	Solapur (Maharashtra)	1993-94	BTRA
5.	Bhiwandi (Maharashtra)	1994-95	SASMIRA
6.	Bhilwara (Rajasthan)	1994-95	NITRA
7.	Bangalore (Karnataka)	1994-95	SITRA
8.	Burhanpur (Madhya Pradesh)	1995-96	Madhya Pradesh Rajya Powerloom Bunkar Sahakari Sangh, Maryadit.
9.	Amritsar (Punjab)	1996-97	Textile Commissioner.
10.	Erode (Tamil Nadu)	1996-97	Textile Commissioner.

(c) and (d) During the year 1997-98, there is a proposal to open 4 new centres in various parts of the country. The location of these Computer Aided Design Centres will be decided on receipt of suggestions/proposals from State Governments/Textile Research Associations, Textile Commissioner, and on the basis of areas of powerloom concentration.

Free Import from Neighbouring Countires

5416. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently declared more items for free import from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives and Nepal; and

(b) if so, the details of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir vide Public Notice No 401, dated 28th February, 1997, issued by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, India has relaxed import restrictions on 180 items if exported from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives and Nepal, subject to the condition that the goods have been manufactured in these countries. This relaxation of import restrictions has been made under SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangment (SAPTA), to increase the trade with the Least Developed Country (LDC) members of SAARC.

[Translation]

Setting up of a Spices Board Centre in Maharashtra

5417. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Spices Board proposes to set up a centre in Maharashtra to give boost to spices;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken for imparting training to the farmers to check heavy use of pesticides for increasing the export of chilly?